

APPROVED MINUTES

Members

Mark Almeda, Chair
Christine Cochrane
Samuel Obar
Roger F. Turner, Jr., Vice – Chair
Kathleen Birtwell, Associate
George Ransom, Associate



Walpole Historical Commission

Walpole Town Hall
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081

<http://www.walpole-ma.gov/walpole-historical-commission>

A meeting of the Walpole Historical Commission was held on September 29, 2016 in the Walpole Room of the Walpole Public Library.

The following members were in attendance:

Mark Almeda, Regular Member, Chair
Christine Cochrane, Regular Member
Samuel Obar, Regular Member
Katie Birtwell, Associate Member
George Ransom, Associate Member

The following guests were in attendance:

Timothy D. Higgins, Vice President of Development, Edgewood Development Company LLC

Chairman Mark Almeda called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

New Members

Mr. Almeda said that Melissa Totten has an interest in being an Associate Member and was going to attend this meeting but is ill.

New Associate Member Katie Birtwell introduced herself to the Commission.

Edgewood Development - Liberty Village Mall/Foundry Redevelopment

Mr. Almeda introduced Timothy Higgins of Edgewood Development who wished to speak about the proposed redevelopment of the Liberty Village Mall (former Fales machine company, the "Foundry.")

Christine Cochrane said she wanted it known for the record that she felt that discussion at this meeting on the redevelopment of this property is a violation of the Open Meeting Law, as it was not posted on the Meeting Agenda. The chairman stated that Mr. Higgins had contacted him after the agenda was posted. Mr. Almeda believes Mr. Higgins should be allowed to speak at this meeting.

Mr. Higgins gave a brief overview of the proposed redevelopment. Edgewood Development plans to file with the town within 45 days and wanted to know what the Historical Commission may require in order to demolish the building. Portions of the building are dated from different

times, but large portions of the structure are more than 100 years old and will fall under the Commission's jurisdiction.

The chairman said that the Commission would like to see as much photos and documentation as possible. The applicant will need to show that the structure is dilapidated and why the building should be demolished.

Edgewood Development currently has "acquiescence" from the 13 condo owners that currently occupy the structure, to sell their units for the redevelopment.

New Members

New Associate member George Ransom introduced himself to the Commission.

Ransom is willing to be a full voting member. Mr. Almeda said he will send a letter to the Selectmen about this.

Correspondence / New Business / Old Business

The Commission received the iPad it ordered before the end of the last fiscal year. The chairman is currently in possession of it and will develop protocol for its use.

The Commission received correspondence from the Mass. Historical Commission seeking applications for state preservation grant funding. They also give out preservation awards to individuals deserving of them.

Mr. Almeda made a motion that the Commission nominate someone in this town for the Mass. Historical Commission 2016 preservation awards for individual achievement. Sam Obar seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Obar gave an update on the process of sponsoring a ceremony for the Union Station getting on to the National Register of Historic Places. The Commission will write a letter to the MA Transportation Secretary to schedule a ceremony date next spring.

Mr. Almeda said he is stepping down as chairman, effective immediately, but will continue to serve on the Commission. A new chairman will be elected at the next meeting.

Mrs. Cochrane said Selectmen had discussed re-use of the Old Town Hall/police station at their previous meeting. They are discussing how the building should be used once the police department moves to South Street.

Mrs. Cochrane made a motion that the chairman write a letter to the Board of Selectmen, referencing last week's Selectmen meeting, regarding the re-use of the Old Town Hall, requesting our Board have a representative on the re-use committee. Mr. Obar seconded it. **The motion passed 3-0-0.**

Adjournment:

Mr. Almeda made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Obar seconded the motion.
The motion passed 3-0-0.